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OXC-0852
Copy 7 of 7

31 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Status of GSA Trailers at OXCART Area

25X1A

1. [REDACTED] called this morning to report on the condition of the twelve trailers obtained through GSA and shipped recently from West Virginia to the OXCART Area. I must say that the report sounded quite depressing.

25X1A

2. According to [REDACTED], the trailers are in less than habitable condition, varying from downright impossible to nearly usable. He states that GSA advised him that the B&O railroad took written exception to their condition at the time they were shipped, less someone infer that their condition was due to shipment. Interior and exterior panels are either broken or warped on most of them, and at least two had what appeared to be fire-damaged roofs, with blue sky showing through.

25X1A

3. [REDACTED] states that many of the twelve have ruptured interior plumbing which would necessitate pulling out interior panelling to replace; there were rodent droppings in nearly every trailer and the mattresses on beds and daybeds were in such condition that the [REDACTED] sanitation engineer has insisted on burning them. Newspapers found inside the trailers have dates of 1957 and 1958, indicating that they have probably been in storage unintended for at least that long. Showers, lavatories, and water closets will apparently need major repairs.

25X1A

4. [REDACTED] said that in addition to the approximately \$8,000 for cross-country shipment, [REDACTED] charged \$175 each to haul them overland to [REDACTED]. He had picked the best three trailers and had them repaired at least partially, to the tune of \$1,500 already; he stated that both he and [REDACTED] felt it would be inadvisable to do a full repair job on all of them in their present condition.

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25X1A 5. I suggested to [REDACTED] that he attempt to use "the best of the worst" for storage or paint locker facilities, and if any could be utilized as field offices for [REDACTED] or any of the subcontractors working on [REDACTED] well and good. He said he thought that by limiting trailer capacity to three per trailer and installing some beds, he could make minimum repairs to as many as eight of the twelve, sufficient to take care of some of the construction workers temporarily. [REDACTED] is starting to fumigate the trailers today. However, as a long-term housing asset, he could not see them. Any which were beyond repair I suggested he strip for parts and dispose of. He said he and [REDACTED] photographed exteriors and interiors and would send in photos with the next report. In the meantime, he has borrowed temporarily ten trailers from [REDACTED] to take care of the anticipated influx of concrete workers next month.

25X1A 6. I should like to find out if GSA might have substituted older and more dilapidated models than those [REDACTED] saw when he inspected them in West Virginia. I do not know if these trailers carried serial numbers.

SIGNED

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief
IPD-DD/P

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